

SENATE BILL No. 328

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 21-13; IC 21-18.5-4-3.

Synopsis: Teacher assistance grant fund. Establishes the teacher assistance grant fund, administered by the commission for higher education, to provide grants for students in teacher training programs who are specializing in high needs subject areas, as determined by the department of education. Makes corresponding changes to related sections.

Effective: July 1, 2016.

Rogers

January 7, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Education & Career Development.



Second Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 328

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education and to make an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 21-13-1-5, AS AMENDED BY THE TECHNICAL
2 CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IS
3 AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]:
4 Sec. 5. "Fund":

5 (1) for purposes of IC 21-13-2, refers to the minority teacher
6 scholarship fund established by IC 21-13-2-1;

7 (2) for purposes of IC 21-13-4, refers to the National Guard
8 tuition supplement program fund established by IC 21-13-4-1;

9 (3) for purposes of IC 21-13-5, refers to the National Guard
10 scholarship extension fund established by IC 21-13-5-1; ~~and~~

11 (4) for purposes of IC 21-13-6, refers to the primary care
12 physician loan forgiveness fund established by IC 21-13-6-3;

13 **(5) for purposes of IC 21-13-6.5, refers to the medical**
14 **residency education fund established by IC 21-13-6.5-1; and**

15 **(6) for purposes of IC 21-13-11, refers to the teacher**
16 **assistance grant fund established by IC 21-13-11-5.**

17 SECTION 2. IC 21-13-11 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE



AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]:

Chapter 11. Teacher Assistance Grants and Fund

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "cost of attendance" means the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate student at the four (4) year state educational institution that has the highest annual cost for a full-time resident undergraduate student.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the teacher assistance grant fund established by section 5 of this chapter.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "grant" refers to a disbursement made under section 6 of this chapter.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "high needs subject area" means a subject matter area determined annually by the department of education established by IC 20-19-3-1 to have, or projected within the next five (5) years to have, a shortage of licensed, full-time elementary or high school teachers.

Sec. 5. (a) The teacher assistance grant fund is established.

(b) The purpose of the fund is to attract qualified teachers who:

- (1) are residents of Indiana;
- (2) enroll in an accredited teacher training program in Indiana;
- (3) specialize in a high needs subject area; and
- (4) sign a letter of intent to teach in public schools in Indiana for at least a number of consecutive years equal to the number of years the teacher received a grant under this chapter;

by providing assistance grants authorized under this chapter to eligible applicants.

(c) The fund consists of appropriations to the fund and gifts, grants, devises, or bequests made to the state to achieve the purposes of the fund.

(d) The fund shall be administered by the commission. The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(e) Grants shall be made from the fund by the treasurer of state upon a warrant issued by the auditor of state in accordance with rules adopted by the commission.

Sec. 6. (a) To qualify for a grant under this chapter, an applicant must:

- (1) be a resident of Indiana;
- (2) enroll in an accredited teacher training program in Indiana on a full-time or part-time basis;



- 1 (A) as an undergraduate student; or
- 2 (B) as a graduate student, if the department of education
- 3 determines that there is a need for teachers with graduate
- 4 degrees in a high needs subject area;
- 5 (3) specialize in a high needs subject area;
- 6 (4) agree in writing to obtain a license to teach under
- 7 IC 20-28-5 and meet the employment requirements set forth
- 8 in section 8 of this chapter;
- 9 (5) make satisfactory academic progress as determined by the
- 10 teacher training program; and
- 11 (6) meet any additional criteria established by the
- 12 commission.
- 13 (b) An individual who wishes to receive a grant must file an
- 14 application with the commission in a timely fashion. The
- 15 commission shall select grant recipients based on academic
- 16 accomplishment and financial need.
- 17 (c) If an applicant is selected to receive a grant, the commission
- 18 shall approve an annual grant in one (1) of the following amounts:
- 19 (1) For a full-time student, four thousand dollars (\$4,000) and
- 20 fifty percent (50%) of the cost of attendance.
- 21 (2) For a part-time student, two thousand dollars (\$2,000) and
- 22 twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost of attendance.
- 23 (d) An application to receive a grant must be renewed annually.
- 24 An individual may receive a grant for a maximum of five (5) years.
- 25 (e) A grant under this chapter is in addition to an award
- 26 received under IC 21-12, and may not be included as income in
- 27 determining an award under IC 21-12. However, if receiving the
- 28 cost of attendance portion of a grant would provide the grant
- 29 recipient more than the actual cost of the grant recipient's tuition
- 30 and mandatory fees when added to any awards received under
- 31 IC 21-12, that portion of the grant shall be reduced to the amount
- 32 that, when combined with awards received under IC 21-12, is
- 33 necessary to pay only the actual cost of the grant recipient's tuition
- 34 and fees.
- 35 (f) If, after a grant recipient has enrolled in a teacher training
- 36 program and is specializing in a subject area that is designated as
- 37 a high needs subject area at the time of the grant recipient's
- 38 enrollment, the department determines that the subject area in
- 39 which the grant recipient is specializing is no longer a high needs
- 40 subject area, the grant recipient may continue to receive grants if
- 41 otherwise qualified to do so.
- 42 Sec. 7. (a) After a grant recipient has completed a teacher



1 training program and obtained a license under IC 20-28-5, the
2 grant recipient must:

- 3 (1) obtain employment with a public school in Indiana; and
- 4 (2) be employed by a public school in Indiana for a number of
- 5 years that is equal to the number of years the grant recipient
- 6 received a grant under this chapter. The grant recipient is not
- 7 required to be employed by the same public school for the
- 8 entire period.

9 (b) The building principal of the public school in which a grant
10 recipient is employed shall verify the grant recipient's employment
11 to the commission in the manner required by the commission.

12 Sec. 8. If a grant recipient fails to be employed by a public
13 school in Indiana for a number of years that is equal to the number
14 of years the grant recipient received a grant under this chapter, the
15 grant recipient shall repay the commission an amount determined
16 by the commission based upon the number of years the grant
17 recipient was employed by a public school in Indiana.

18 Sec. 9. An individual is eligible to receive a grant under this
19 chapter only if an appropriation has been made to carry out the
20 specific purposes of this chapter.

21 Sec. 10. The commission shall maintain complete and accurate
22 records in implementing the fund, including records of the
23 following:

- 24 (1) The receipt, disbursement, and uses of money from the
- 25 fund.
- 26 (2) The number of applications for grants.
- 27 (3) Other pertinent information requested by the commission.

28 Sec. 11. The commission may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2
29 necessary to carry out this chapter, including rules governing the
30 enforcement of employment requirements.

31 SECTION 3. IC 21-18.5-4-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.46-2014,
32 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
33 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 3. For purposes of administering this chapter, the
34 commission shall do the following:

- 35 (1) Prepare and supervise the issuance of public information
- 36 concerning this chapter, IC 21-12-2, IC 21-12-3, IC 21-12-4, and
- 37 IC 21-12-5.
- 38 (2) Prescribe the form and regulate the submission of applications
- 39 for higher education awards and the commission's programs.
- 40 (3) Conduct conferences and interviews with applicants as
- 41 appropriate.
- 42 (4) Determine the eligibility of applicants.



- 1 (5) Select qualified applicants.
- 2 (6) Determine annually the maximum higher education award (IC
- 3 21-12-3) and freedom of choice award (IC 21-12-4), subject to
- 4 approval by the budget agency with review by the budget
- 5 committee.
- 6 (7) Determine the respective amounts of, and award, the
- 7 appropriate higher education awards, grants, and scholarships.
- 8 (8) Determine eligibility for, and award, annual renewals of
- 9 higher education awards, grants, and scholarships.
- 10 (9) Act as the designated state agency for participation in any
- 11 federal program for reinsurance of student loans.
- 12 (10) Receive federal funds made available to the commission for
- 13 awards, grants, and scholarships, and disburse these funds in the
- 14 manner prescribed by federal law.
- 15 (11) One (1) time every year, submit a report to the legislative
- 16 council that provides data and statistical information regarding
- 17 the number of individuals who received assistance under
- 18 IC 21-12-6 and IC 21-12-6.5. The report made to the legislative
- 19 council must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.
- 20 (12) One (1) time every year, submit a report to the budget
- 21 committee that provides data and statistical information regarding
- 22 the number of individuals who received assistance under
- 23 IC 21-12, IC 21-13, and IC 21-14.
- 24 (13) Administer and determine the eligibility of applicants for,
- 25 and award amounts under, the teacher loan repayment program
- 26 established under IC 21-13-10.
- 27 **(14) Administer and determine the eligibility of applicants for,**
- 28 **and award grants under, the teacher assistance grant**
- 29 **program established under IC 21-13-11.**

